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Reply to: Jacksonville, Florida

October 12, 2001

BOAT FORFEITED AFTER REPEATED VIOLATIONS

On August 1, 2001, the Court ordered forfeiture of a 38' Diamond Diver fishing vessel, valued at \$85,000.00, in Jacksonville after it was used by its owner, Dan Robert Lindley, to illegally harvest spiny lobster over the bag limit without proper permits and was used to transfer the illegally harvested lobster at sea to another vessel. Forfeiture was ordered following the third violation by Lindley of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Lindley was previously fined \$35,000.00 and agreed to a lifetime revocation of his federal fishing permits for two prior violations. However, he continued to use the Diamond Diver illegally leading to the forfeiture which was uncontested by Lindley.

This action followed investigation by officials of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through its Southeast Regional Office of General Counsel based in St. Petersburg, who referred the case to the U.S. Attorneys Office in Jacksonville for forfeiture. It is likely that the vessel will be put into service for use by NOAA in future law enforcement activities. U.S. Attorney Mac Cauley stated that "this case should serve as an example to others who knowingly flout compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act that the United States will take appropriate action to enforce the law."